

Congressman Baird Secures Over \$30 Million for Clark County Transportation Projects (July 29, 2005)

Washington, D.C. - Congressman Brian Baird used his position on the influential House Transportation Committee to secure \$45,979,600 million for Southwest Washington in a major transportation bill that is passed the House today. Congressman Baird secured \$30,322,000 for transportation projects in Clark County alone.

"These projects will generate jobs, boost our local economy, and create safer, less congested roads to travel on," said Congressman Baird. "Given the current budget constraints, I am pleased Senator Murray, Senator Cantwell, and I were able to work together to bring this funding home to Southwest Washington."

Congress reauthorizes funding for the nation's transportation systems every six years. The last reauthorization was passed in 1998. In 2004, both the House and Senate passed reauthorizations bills that later died in conference. The Senate is expected to vote on the Transportation Equity Act (TEA-LU) as early as tomorrow.

"This is a homerun for the region and for the entire state of Washington," said Vancouver Mayor Royce Pollard. "This appropriation includes funding for critical safety projects, economic development projects, and freight mobility projects."

Clark County Projects Congressman Baird Secured Funding For:

I-5 Columbia River Crossing Preliminary Engineering and EIS: \$7 million

Provides funding for preliminary engineering and an Environmental Impact Study for improvements to Interstate 5 (I-5) between SR 500 in Vancouver, Washington and Marine Drive in Portland, Oregon. The funds will be used to carefully explore Columbia River crossing options within the I-5 corridor between the two states. Improvements will address the ever-increasing passenger and freight congestion that creates severe delays for commuters and traffic safety concerns in the Portland/Vancouver region.

Senator Patty Murray secured an additional \$1 million for this project. Congressman Earl Blumenauer secured an additional \$4.22 million and Oregon Senators Ron Wyden and Gordon Smith secured an additional \$2 million for the Oregon side of the project, bringing total funding for the project to \$14.2 million.

I-5/Salmon Creek Area Improvement Project: \$10.772 million

Provides funding for road improvements in the NE 134th Street/I-5/I-205 corridor in the northern urban area of Clark County. Funds will be used to alleviate congestion and improve safety in the vicinity of the freeway interchanges.

I-5: Delta Park to Lombard: \$4 million

Provides funding to move forward on the Delta Park widening project, which will construct an additional southbound lane between Delta Park and the Lombard Interchange on I-5. Because the freeway narrows from three lanes to two in this area, freight haulers and commuters experience significant delays during peak hours. The secured funds will be used to increase freeway capacity, thereby improving traffic flow and safety for those traveling through this area.

Congressman Blumenauer secured an additional \$3.2 million and Senators Wyden and Smith received an additional \$9 million for the Oregon side of this project, bringing the total funding level for the project to \$16.2 million.

18th Street between 87th Avenue and NE 192nd Avenue: \$3.2 million

Project will widen and extend NE 18th Street between NE 87th Avenue and NE 192nd Avenue and add sidewalks and pedestrian pathways, street lights, and traffic signals. The improved 18th Street will provide access to the planned new freeway interchange and help alleviate growing congestion on Burton Road, Mill Plain Boulevard, and NE 112th Avenue.

SR 14 Corridor Camas/Washougal: \$1.5 million

Funds preliminary engineering and environmental analysis for improvements to State Route 14 through the Camas/Washougal area. SR 14 is a critical bottleneck responsible for numerous accidents.

I-5/SR501 Interchange Replacement in Ridgefield: \$600,000

Project consists of replacing the current, congested interchange with a Single Point Urban Interchange and widening SR 501. The project is necessary to accommodate anticipated growth in area, as dictated by the State's growth management plan.

Senator Maria Cantwell received an additional \$8.4 million for this project, bringing the total funding level for this project to \$9 million.

Confluence Project: \$2 million

Provides funding for the City of Vancouver, the National Park Service, and WSDOT to connect the Fort of Vancouver National Historical site to the Columbia River Waterfront by a pedestrian land bridge spanning SR-14 east of I-5. The project will be designed by world-renowned architect Maya Lin and will help commemorate the Lewis Clark Bicentennial.

Senator Murray secured an additional \$2 million for this project, bring total funding to \$4 million.

Mill Plain Blvd Improvement: \$1.25 million

Provides funding to improve Mill Plain Blvd between 172nd and SE 192nd. The project will add capacity and relieve congestion on adjacent corridors and will serve two large new commercial developments.

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